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GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES



H. "BUTCH" BROWNING, JR.
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

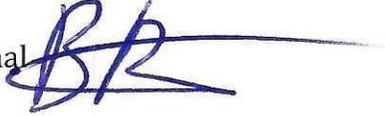
OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

LICENSING MEMORANDUM 3-2021

DATE: September 3, 2021

TO: Life Safety and Property Protection Contracting Industry

FROM: Erin E. St. Pierre, Deputy Chief 
Special Services Division

APPROVED: H. "Butch" Browning, Jr., State Fire Marshal 

RE: Notifications of Repairs to Hurricane Ida-Affected Systems

Hurricane Ida, a category 4 hurricane, made landfall August 29, 2021 and caused major rainfall, storm-surge flooding, high winds, and power outages throughout the state of Louisiana. As a result, life safety and property (LSPP) systems and equipment have been affected. Consequently, LSPP firms will begin inspecting, servicing, and repairing these systems as permitted through restored electricity and road access. Accordingly, many of these systems may be determined to be majorly impaired.

As you know, red tag (major) impairment notifications are required whenever life safety systems are affected to the point where a system does not function as intended or where the threat to life is imminent due to a major impairment within the system. Many firms with customers throughout the storm-ravaged area will begin to submit red tag impairment notifications to the OSFM regarding systems that are inoperable because of the storm, whether the inoperability was caused by damage to a system component or simply a loss of power.

Traditionally, the receipt of a red tag impairment notification compels a visit by OSFM or local fire prevention personnel to confirm whether an impairment is present in the system. Because of the inundation of impairment notifications this Office knows is forthcoming, we are seeking the assistance of our life safety partners in order to avoid the dispatching of OSFM or local inspection personnel to address systems that have been repaired after an impairment notification has been submitted to the OSFM.

In order to avoid unnecessary dispatching of OSFM or local fire inspection partners, many of whom are currently assisting in storm-related recovery and inspections, to locations where systems have been repaired after a notification was submitted to the OSFM, firms shall be required to notify the OSFM by sending an email to sfm_lspplicensing@la.gov, with the IMS-generated reference number (e.g., 21-LC-1-12345) and address of the location of the system in the subject line of the email. You should also note in the email that the system has been repaired and has been returned to a fully operational condition.

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Additionally, and most importantly, if impacted structures are occupied prior to the repairs being completed, firms must advise the system owner or responsible party that a temporary fire watch will be required either in cooperation with a local fire department or by instituting a fire watch themselves until such time as repairs are completed and systems are operating properly. Instructions regarding fire watch procedures can be found at http://sfm.dps.louisiana.gov/fi-fd_firewatch.htm and should be provided to the owner or responsible party.

Please note that the requirement to notify the OSFM after a storm-affected system is repaired is TEMPORARY and shall expire once all such systems have been repaired and are fully operational. As a side note, automatic notification of repaired systems will be included in the IMS electronic tagging function once it is launched in the near future.

Should you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please feel free to contact Capt. Ricky Roubique at 225-925-6319, or via email at ricky.roubique@la.gov.

Thank you for the critically important work that you do on behalf of the citizens of and visitors to this State. We greatly appreciate you.